.Aftermath

Vol.4, Num. 1 The East Texas State University Mathematics Department Newsletter Spring 1990

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED AT HOMECOMING BREAKFAST

A group of about seventy alumni, faculty, students, and friends gathered on October 28, 1989 at the Mathematics Department Homecoming Breakfast to see scholarships awarded to two East Texas mathematics majors. Tim Hooker, Sulphur Springs junior, received the Cecil B. Wright scholarship and Lara Coffer, Tyler junior, received the Bub Taylor scholarship.

The winners were selected by a faculty scholarship committee which reported that the decisions were not easy. The department has many very talented undergraduate majors and competition was quite keen.

The Taylor award was given for the first time and was made possible by support from many of our alumni over the past year. Bub and Virginia Taylor were on hand to see this happy occasion. They were justifiably pleased. Virginia Taylor commented, "He never aspired to be anything other than a good teacher."

In addition to witnessing the awards given, those attending the Breakfast were treated to fine food, good conversation, and a fair portion of reminiscing. We are pleased with the response of alumni to this occasion and hope the event will continue to grow in years to come. Graduates attending this year were:

Janie Akers	MS 89	Sunder Khullar	BS 69
Deborah Alexander	BS 76	Rachel Lafferty	MA 39
Gloria Aslan	MS 74	Mildred Lamb	MS 78
James Aslan	BS 89	Kevin Markham	BS 86
Dale Bedgood	BS 54	Louis Moore	
Jennifer Brock	BS 82	James Ochoa	BMED 81
Charles Byous	BS 40	Steve Reznik	BA 88
Ramona Chance	MS 88	Dondra Roberts	MS 87
Margie Davenport	MS 81	Sue Sanders	BS 87
Shawn Eagleton	BS 88	Charlotte Simmons	BA 88
Gary Fallis	MED 69	Cynthia Steward	MS 88
Sarah Ridge Fallis	BS 66	Bub Taylor	MS 38
Jeff Griffin	BS 88	Virginia Taylor	MED 57
Charlie Jones	MS 89	Paul Warren	BS 89
Priscilla Jones	MED 76	Elaine Yznaga	BS 82
Alex Kibler	MED 55	John Yznaga	BS 82

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NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Charles Jones has been named Director of the Mathematics Skills Center and Coordinator of the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) for the department. He assumed this new position at the start of the Spring, 1990 semester. His duties include supervising the MSC and seeing that it is properly equipped to meet the growing demand for the service it offers, one-on-one tutoring. Plans are being made to supply the lab with personal computers which can also be used for mathematics tutorials by the students.

The work of the MSC is closely connected with the TASP, a state-mandated program which requires all entering freshmen to pass a skills test in mathematics, reading and writing. Students unable to pass any section of the test must be enrolled in a remediation program until the test is passed. The MSC provides support for students in the remedial courses.

After receiving a B.S. degree from ETSU in 1987, Jones continued his studies, receiving an M.S. in Mathematics in 1989. He has a strong interest in remedial instruction and is dedicated to seeing that the MSC is a useful component of our programs.

BILL ASLAN NAMED DISTINGUISHED TEACHER

Bill Aslan was honored by receiving a Texas Association of College Teachers (TACT) Teaching Excellence Award. The award was made March 3, 1990 at the annual TACT Banquet.

Aslan was selected by a committee composed of past winners of the award after being nominated and recommended by students and colleagues. He was presented with a handsome plaque and a check for $500. "It is an honor to receive such a prestigious award," he said. "Although I appreciate the money, I would like to donate the $500 to the Shared Visions campaign in honor of Bub Taylor, the first person from the Mathematics Department to receive this teaching award." This generous deposit will be assigned to the Bub Taylor scholarship endowment.

We congratulate Dr. Aslan and feel the distinction is much deserved. Some of you may want to pass along your compliments to him also.

DEPARTMENT HEAD'S COLUMN

My thanks to the many of you who have supported our department over the past year by visiting us, writing letters, or contributing to scholarships. Your help does make a difference in the quality of our programs and in the satisfaction we derive from working at East Texas State University.

Enrollment here continues to climb, and we are excited at the prospect of dealing with a larger student body. We are hoping to be able to add to the size of our faculty. Until we can do so, we will happily try to manage the healthy affliction of large classes.

In addition to larger classes, we must also address needed changes in curriculum. Over the past few years, much attention has been paid to the methods of teaching calculus. Advances in technology, making sophisticated computer techniques available to virtually every student, have fueled these discussions. We feel that some adjustments in the calculus curriculum are inevitable; it would be wise to be active in the sensible shaping of those changes. It seems shortsighted to ignore the proliferation of microcomputers and the powerful software packages available. We feel it is desirable to use computers to help deepen students' understanding of the concepts in calculus.

Consequently, in the Fall semester, we will be offering an experimental Calculus I course which will make computers available to students in the classroom. The instructor will also use a computer coupled to an overhead display device.

The instructor for the course will be Howard Lambert. His interest in this project extends over several years. He has attended conferences on revision of the calculus curriculum and is now busily reviewing software packages for possible use in the course. MATHEMATICA, DERIVE, and MAPLE are some of the more common names of these tools. Marketed by various companies, they possess enormous graphing capabilities and have the feature of returning derivatives in closed form. If any of you have experience with some of these, or similar, programs I am sure Dr. Lambert would be interested in hearing from you.

ETSU CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED

The centennial year of East Texas State University was observed during 1989. There were many designated activities on campus to commemorate the event. The Mathematics Department was active in some of them. As part of the celebration, Dr. John Lamb, Jr. organized and presented an 8-part series of NASA programs on the solar system from April 3rd to 26th. On July 20th, he hosted a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the first manned lunar landing and the 13th anniversary of the first Viking landing on Mars. NASA films were shown at these events.

ALUMNI FOCUS

Deborah Rhoads Alexander is an assertive young woman on the move who has taken advantage of the halls of academia in acquiring educational excellence. She was born in Atlanta, a small town in northeast Texas. She was salutatorian of her 8th grade class and graduated from Atlanta High School in the top 5% of her class. She pursued and obtained a B.S. and M.S. in mathematics with minors in computer science and music, respectively. From this humble beginning, through perseverance and hard work, she gleaned her education. This was the ultimate dream for both Deborah and her father, who was a strong advocate of education. A family tradition of emphasizing education inspired her to remain in school, study hard and maintain a high grade point average. This tradition is reflected in her uncle, Dr. Joseph J. Rhoads, who was the first black president of Bishop College in Marshall, Texas.

For the last 12 1/2 years, Deborah has worked as a telecommunications engineer for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in Dallas, Texas. During her career with the telephone company she has held several different positions in the engineering department. She has designed radio circuits for high schools to broadcast their football games, and she was responsible for purifying the cable and carrier facilities in the Trunk Integrated Record Keeping System (TIRKS) database. She determined and recommended initial and/or relief of the traffic sensitive switching equipment in the central offices. She also was responsible for estimating monies and writing specifications for growth and replacement of analog equipment to digital equipment. Currently she works in the transmission engineering department and designs hi-capacity digital circuits. Unlike the normal two wire analog trunking carrier where one customer's conversation is transmitted, these digital lines allow 24 telephone conversations on the same pair of wires.

In 1982, Deborah was given the opportunity to teach mathematics at the junior college level. She started working with the Dallas County Community Colleges at North Lake Junior College in Irving, Texas and is presently teaching at Eastfield Junior College in Mesquite. "Teaching gives me a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction in giving back to the educational community," Deborah says. Her desire is to encourage young students to continue their education.

In her busy schedule Deborah still finds time to contribute to civic and religious affairs. A very active member of the Zion Baptist Church in Rowlett, Texas, she shares her time with the choir and mission departments. She is the Sunday School musician and was elected 1989 Woman of the Year. She was also nominated for the 1990 Marquis Who's Who of American Women. She is a member of the Bell Singers, a Southwestern Bell Telephone Company singing group which visits nursing homes and hospitals. Once a week she tutors third graders at C.F. Carr Elementary School for the Dallas Independent School District's Adopt-A-School Program. She is a member of the Texas Society of Telephone

Engineers and the Professional Women of Southwestern Bell. She participates in the American Heart Association Neighborhood campaign and is an active member of the NAACP. She was the recipient of the Key Contributor's Award for her 1989 contribution to her work group. Deborah's greatest hobby is to visit the advanced and golden age people. Says Deborah, "From this exposure I feel I have acquired wisdom and patience."

Deborah Alexander, an aggressive, talented young single person, owns and maintains her own home. Accustomed to hard work, she trims and manicures her own lawn. She attributes this to her mother who worked hard and saw that all her children had an opportunity to attend college. She also owes a great deal to her father who gave her an opportunity to assist him in managing his dry cleaning business. At an early age she had her own business selling fireworks and snow cones. She says she is very fortunate to have had thorough and qualified instructors in public school, and especially East Texas State University. She wants to inspire others as she was inspired. "I am eternally grateful to East Texas State University which afforded me the opportunity to further my education through grants, scholarships and special work programs. I also feel that I have been blessed by God to have benefitted from all these efforts."

MATH CLUB NEWS

The Math Clubs, thanks to a group of imaginative, energetic officers, had a very successful semester in the Fall of 1989. After a lively initial meeting attended by the faculty and about 40 students, we went on to have two other program meetings, a picnic, and a terrific Christmas Party at the Aslan home which was attended by 75 members, friends, and families.

One innovative idea instituted during the semester involved a set of humorous mathematical skits performed by Pi Mu Epsilon President Kevin Brewer, who portrayed Lenny R. Algebra, and Cynthia Steward, Vice President of both Pi Mu Epsilon and Alpha Gamma Alpha, who took the part of Dr. Martha Matica.

Another idea was piloted by Melody Jolly, treasurer of the clubs. This involved a push to collect a mile of pennies, (about $840.00), most of which is to be contributed to the Bub Taylor Scholarship Fund. So far, after an industrious bake sale, we have $292.80. The effort has been a commendable one, but we are still some distance from our goal. Melody graduated in December, and her duties have been assumed by Patricia Young. We hope to continue our drive until March 23, 1990 when the final total will be announced during our annual Math Clubs Banquet, where Dr. Doug Richey, of Northeast Texas Community College in Mt. Pleasant, will be our speaker.

The fall semester also witnessed the formation of a student chapter of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). John Heath is also the faculty advisor for this club, which has as its only requirement for membership an interest in mathematics. There is an impressive list of journals and magazines from which a new member may choose. Dr. Jack Lamb deserves much credit for making us aware that the MAA, for the first time, was encouraging the formation of student chapters. Officers for the charter club are David C. Brown, Dallas, President; Dawn Branom, Commerce, Vice-President; and Patricia Young, Commerce, Treasurer.

Our meetings this semester will be February 8, March 1, April 5, and April 26, plus the aforementioned banquet on March 23.

ALUMNI NOTES

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